

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE**  
**(May 20, 2015)**

**PUBLIC DOCUMENTS: Please click on the person's name to access a link to a copy of the public documents for these physicians.**

Recently, the Iowa Board of Medicine took the following action:

**Robert F. Hall, M.D.**, a 70-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices orthopedic surgery in McHenry, Illinois, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board on May 15, 2015. On March 10, 2014, Dr. Hall was disciplined by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (Illinois Board) for attempting to perform surgery on a patient's right ankle when the patient was scheduled to undergo surgery on the left ankle. Dr. Hall recognized the error after the initial incision and immediately informed the patient and the family and the patient chose to proceed with the appropriate surgery on the left ankle. The Illinois Board issued Dr. Hall a Reprimand for attempting to perform surgery on the wrong ankle. Under the terms of the May 15, 2015, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Iowa Board charged Dr. Hall with being disciplined by the Illinois Board for attempting to perform surgery on the wrong ankle. The Iowa Board issued Dr. Hall a Citation and Warning and required him to submit a written corrective action plan describing the steps he has taken to avoid such errors in the future.

**Lynette I. Iles, M.D.**, a 51-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices family medicine in Washington, Iowa, had formal disciplinary charges filed against her by the Board on May 15, 2015. On February 12, 2009, Dr. Iles entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board. The Board charged Dr. Iles with failing to provide appropriate chronic pain treatment to multiple patients and failing to maintain appropriate professional boundaries with patients. Dr. Iles voluntarily completed over thirty credit hours of continuing medical education for appropriate chronic pain treatment and maintaining appropriate professional boundaries. Dr. Iles also agreed to be monitored by the Iowa Physician Health Program. The Board issued Dr. Iles a Citation and Warning and placed her on probation for a period of five years subject to counseling and Board monitoring. On February 12, 2014, Dr. Iles completed the terms of her probation. On January 24, 2014, the Board charged Dr. Iles with failing to provide appropriate obstetrical care to multiple patients in Washington, Iowa, between 2005 and 2010. On August 8, 2014, Dr. Iles entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board to resolve the pending disciplinary charges. The Board issued Dr. Iles a Citation and Warning and ordered her to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty. The Board also permanently prohibited Dr. Iles from practicing obstetrics and placed her on probation for a period of five years subject to certain conditions. Under the May 15, 2015, Statement of Charges, the Board charged Dr. Iles with violating the terms of the August 8, 2014, Settlement Agreement, including failing to obtain a Board-approved educational preceptor in a timely manner; failing to complete continuing medical education and self-study in a timely manner; failing to complete a documentation course in a timely manner; and failing to file sworn quarterly reports attesting to her compliance with the terms of her probation. A hearing is scheduled on July 30-31, 2015.

**Eric F. Opheim, D.O.**, a 55-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced family medicine in Grundy Center, Iowa, and currently practices in Newton, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board on May 15, 2015. The Board charged Dr. Opheim with engaging in sexual harassment and unprofessional conduct when he engaged in a sexual relationship with a female co-worker to whom he also prescribed medications, exchanged inappropriate text messages and photographs with female co-workers and exposed himself to a female co-worker. At the direction of the Board, Dr. Opheim

completed a Board-approved professional boundaries evaluation on September 5, 2014. Under the terms of the May 15, 2015, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Opheim a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty and complete a Board-approved professional boundaries program. The Board also placed him on probation for a period of five years subject to counseling and Board monitoring.

**Sandesh R. Patil, M.D.**, a 52-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced internal medicine, specializing in cardiovascular disease, in London, Kentucky, had formal disciplinary charges filed against him by the Iowa Board on May 15, 2015. On June 4, 2013, Dr. Patil pleaded guilty to health care fraud in the United States District Court, Eastern District of Kentucky. Dr. Patil falsely recorded the severity of patients' illnesses in order to receive payment for numerous heart procedures in 2009 and 2010. Dr. Patil was sentenced to 30 months in federal prison and was excluded from the Medicare, Medicaid and all other federal health care programs for a minimum of five years. On June 20, 2013, Dr. Patil was disciplined by the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure (Kentucky Board) for failing to perform appropriate histories, physical examinations and cardiovascular testing, failing to maintain appropriate medical records, and performing unnecessary cardiovascular testing, stenting and angioplasty procedures. Dr. Patil forfeited his Kentucky medical license. The Iowa Board charged Dr. Patil with being convicted of a felony related to the practice of medicine and being disciplined by the Kentucky Board in violation of the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa. A hearing is scheduled on September 10, 2015.

**Amy D. Putney**, a resident of Readlyn, Iowa, was issued a Withdrawal of Notice to Cease and Desist on May 20, 2015. The Board received information which indicated that Ms. Putney performed electroencephalograms (EEGs) and quantitative electroencephalograms (QEEGs) and neurofeedback in the treatment of patients with attention deficit disorder (ADD), attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), learning disorders, sleep disorders, migraines and other health and mental health conditions. On December 8, 2014, the Board issued Ms. Putney a Notice to Cease and Desist advising her to cease providing such services in Iowa in the future. On February 19, 2015, the Board issued Ms. Putney an Amended Notice. The Board noted that while it recognizes that the use of EEGs, QEEGs and neurofeedback may be within the scope of other licensed health and mental health professions in Iowa, the Board's investigation revealed that Ms. Putney was not appropriately licensed or certified to provide such services in Iowa. The Board noted that it is unlawful to provide such services in Iowa without appropriate licensure or certification. Recently, the Board received information which indicates that as of April 17, 2015, Ms. Putney is licensed in Iowa as a mental health counselor. The Board concluded that the services provided by Ms. Putney may be within the scope of a licensed mental health counselor. The Board does not have authority to regulate or define the practice of mental health counseling. Therefore, the Board withdrew the Notice to Cease and Desist and the Amended Notice issued on December 10, 2014, and February 19, 2015.

**David H. Segal, M.D.**, a 48-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices neurological surgery in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, had formal disciplinary charges filed against him by the Board on May 15, 2015. The Board alleges that Dr. Segal demonstrated professional incompetency when he failed to provide appropriate neurological surgical care to numerous patients in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The Board alleges that Dr. Segal inappropriately utilized epidural blood patches to manage postoperative spinal fluid leaks discovered following spinal surgery, that his patient's experienced excessive infections following neurostimulator placement and he failed to appropriately manage the infections, and he failed to establish appropriate coverage arrangements for his patients in his absence putting his patients at risk of harm. The Board also alleges that Dr. Segal maintained pre-signed prescriptions which were intended to be completed and issued at a later time in violation of the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa. A hearing is scheduled on July 30-31, 2015.

**Kurt R. Vander Ploeg, M.D.**, a 74-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices family medicine in Pella, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board on May 15, 2015. Under the terms of the May 15, 2015, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board charged Dr. Vander Ploeg with violating the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa when he failed to provide appropriate pain management to multiple patients in Pella, Iowa, between 2007 and 2014. The Board issued Dr. Vander Ploeg a Citation and Warning and required him to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty. The Board also prohibited him from prescribing, administering or dispensing controlled substances for the treatment of chronic pain under his Iowa medical license and ordered him to complete a medical record keeping course. The Board also placed Dr. Vander Ploeg on probation for a period of five years subject to Board monitoring, including prescribing audits.

**When appropriate, disciplinary actions are reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank, an electronic repository administered by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to track adverse license actions.**

**CONSUMER COMPLAINTS: Consumers can submit complaints against physicians through the Board's Website at [www.medicalboard.iowa.gov](http://www.medicalboard.iowa.gov), by calling (515) 281-5847, or by mail at 400 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite C, Des Moines, IA 50309-4686.**